

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SAIGON 13830 040406Z

64

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DPW-01 SAI-01 IO-04 EUR-08 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-01 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /066 W

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O R 040220Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 9992

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 13830

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR VN VS FR

SUBJ: DISCUSSION WITH FRENCH OF SITUATION IN SOUTH VIETNAM

REF: PARIS 25784

1. SINCE FRENCH WILL PRESUMABLY PASS ON OUR ASSESSMENT TO DRV WE BELIEVE IT IMPORTANT IN PROJECTED TOUR D'HORIZON WITH BOLLE NOVEMBER 4 THAT EMBOFF REFLECT BASIC STRENGTH OF GVN IN SPITE OF RECENT POLITICAL PERTURBATIONS HERE THAT HAVE BEEN EXAGGERATED BY PRESS.

2. MOST RECENT BASIC ASSESSMENT OF POLITICAL POSITION OF GVN WHICH WE CONSIDER STILL VALID, IS CONTAINED IN FVS-33,686 WHICH WAS SENT PARIS. YOU MAY WISH TO DRAW ON THAT APPRAISAL IN YOUR DISCUSSION WITH BOLLE. PARAS 17-22 MAY BE ESPECIALLY USEFUL, WITH EXCEPTION OF PARA 20. SINCE THAT ASSESSMENT WAS WRITTEN PRESIDENT THIEU HAS MOVED TO STRENGTHEN HIS POSITION BY ACCEPTING RESIGNATIONS OF FOUR MINISTERS, TRANSFERRING THREE OF THE FOUR REGIONAL MILITARY COMMANDERS, AND RETIRING 377 MILITARY OFFICERS.

3. SAIGON DEMONSTRATIONS OCTOBER 31 WERE DESCRIBED IN SAIGON 13802 SENT USDEL JEC. SITUATION QUICKLY RETURNED TO CALM NOVEMBER 1, WITH SOME ANTI-GOVERNMENT MEETINGS HELD BUT NO
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PAGE 02 SAIGON 13830 040406Z

SIGNIFICANT DISORDERS OCCURING. PRESS REPORTING HAS GENERALLY

VASTIL OVERSTATED SIZE OF DEMONSTRATIONS, THEIR POLITICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND IMPACT ON THE COMMUNITY.

4. YOU MAY PARTICULARLY WISH TO MAKE USE OF OUR ASSESSMENT OF THIEU'S NOVEMBER 1 SPEECH (SAIGON 13822 SENT USDEL JEC).

5. WE WOULD BE INTERESTED IN FRENCH ASSESSMENT BASED ON REPORTING FROM THEIR EMBASSY IN SAIGON.

MARTIN

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NNN

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